SEPTEMBER 2002

TRANSREPORT

TRANSPORTATION NEWS FROM THE BOSTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Last Call for Comments on MPO Documents

The public comment periods will close on the following dates for the four Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization documents announced in the August issue of *TRANSREPORT:*

September 3, 2002, at 5:00 P.M.

- The draft addendum to the Boston Region 2000–25 Transportation Plan Update
- The draft amendment to the Fiscal Years 2002–07 Transportation Improvement Program
- The draft Fiscal Year 2003 Unified Planning Work Program

September 10, 2002, at 5:00 P.M.

- The draft Fiscal Years 2003–08 Transportation Improvement Program

To ensure a written response, comments must be addressed to:

Dennis DiZoglio, Chairman
Transportation Planning and Programming Committee
c/o CTPS
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116

Copies of all of the above documents are available at local libraries and town halls in the region. See the Boston MPO Activities section on page 2 for more details on how to obtain copies. The calendar on page 4 lists Transportation Planning and Programming Committee meetings that will include reports on the five public workshops held on the documents and reviews of all comments received. It also lists the MPO meetings at which the final documents will be endorsed.

Major Roadway Openings for Logan Airport and Central Artery/Tunnel Project

The latest milestone reached by the Logan Airport Modernization Program is the completion of the upper-level roadway system, which opened on August 3. Logan's roadways now clearly form two systems, an upper level for departing flights and a lower level for arriving flights. The two-tiered configuration simplifies driving at Logan and provides more access lanes.

In connection with the opening of the upper-level roadway system:

- The exit from the Central Garage has been relocated.
- The Ted Williams Tunnel is now accessible via the outbound roadway for patrons exiting the Central Garage.
- The exit road from Terminal E to the outbound road has shifted.
- Patrons exiting the Hilton turn right to head north or to the Sumner Tunnel and turn left to head south to the Ted Williams Tunnel via Harborside Drive.
- The upper-level roadway in front of Terminal C has shifted slightly and is now closer to the terminal entrance.

Logan patrons should also be aware that the Ted Williams Tunnel is now open to the public from 10:00 P.M. to 5:00 A.M. on weekdays and from 10:00 P.M. on Friday to 5:00 A.M. Monday.

New Frontage Road connection to Kneeland Street

The Logan Modernization Program is now 80 percent complete, with nearly every terminal and roadway at Logan either under construction or completed. The "New and Improved" Logan is emerging, with overhead walkways opened and connected to all terminals from the Central Garage, a new Terminal E now visible from the outbound roadway and opening early next year, and the demolition and reconstruction of Terminal A underway.

In other roadway construction news, the Central Artery/Tunnel Project has completed two new connections: a new Frontage Road northbound to Kneeland Street and a new permanent exit from the MassPike eastbound to South Station. The new Frontage Road, which opened on August

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The members of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): Executive Office of Transportation and Construction • City of Boston • City of Everett • City of Newton • City of Peabody • Federal Highway Administration • Federal Transit Administration • Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority • Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Advisory Board • Massachusetts Highway Department • Massachusetts Port Authority • Massachusetts Turnpike Authority • Metropolitan Area Planning Council • Regional Transportation Advisory Council • Town of Bedford • Town of Framingham • Town of Hopkinton

Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization Activities

Boston MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee Action Items

On August 8 the Boston MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee voted to distribute the draft fiscal year 2003–08 Transportation Improvement Program, which is a document that sets forth a six-year program of highway and transit projects expected to be constructed in the Boston MPO region. The transit projects programmed for the next three fiscal years have a total cost of $623 million, the highway projects $2.2 billion. The public comment period for the TIP will close on September 10 (see page 1 for a related article). To request copies of the TIP or any of the other MPO documents available for public comment, contact the Central Transportation Planning Staff at (617) 973-7100, (617) 973-7089 (TDD), or publicinformation@ctps.org. The documents are also available for downloading from the Boston MPO's Web site at www.bostonmpo.org and for viewing at libraries and municipal offices in the region's 101 cities and towns.

Regional Transportation Advisory Council Update

In August, the Council formulated its recommendations to the Transportation Planning and Programming Committee on the draft FY 2003 Unified Planning Work Program and the draft Environmental Justice Addendum to the 2000–2025 Regional Transportation Plan Update. Members voted to recommend MPO adoption of the UPWP but advised that the scopes of several studies (the Braintree Split, Assembly Square, and Fitchburg Commuter Rail) be expanded and that the Council's UPWP committee remain active throughout the year to review work scopes implementing UPWP projects as they are developed. They also voted to support the addendum to the Plan Update with the recommendation that outreach for additional membership on the Transportation Planning and Programming Committee's Environmental Justice Committee continue.

Comments on the FY 2003–2008 Transportation Improvement Program will be developed at the Council's next meeting; see the calendar on page four for the time and location.

Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA Update

At the August meeting, Chief William Fleming, Detective Lewis Best and Officer Brian O'Hara of the MBTA Police gave a presentation on the MBTA's safety program, expaining safety procedures that MBTA staff have been trained to follow in the event of medical emergencies, fires, weather catastrophes, and other incidents. Committee members provided feedback on ways the procedures can be enhanced for people with disabilities.

2002 Transportation Bond Bill Enacted

On August 10 Acting Governor Jane Swift signed into law a transportation bond bill (Chapter 246 of the Acts of 2002). The purpose of the bill is to provide new capital authorization for the state to use on transportation projects. Highlights of the bill include:

- $266.2 million for the design, construction, and reconstruction of roadways.
- $30 million for transportation infrastructure improvements for the new Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in South Boston.
- Creation of a security zone bordering Logan International Airport.
- Expansion of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority from three members to five.
- Authorization for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority to continue the 50 percent toll discount program for participants in its Fast Lane electronic toll collection system and direction to the Massachusetts Port Authority to study the feasibility of providing a 50-cent toll discount on the Tobin Memorial Bridge for Fast Lane participants.
- Authorization for the MBTA to acquire former railroad right-of-way for the Greenbush commuter rail extension.

Copies of the bond bill can be obtained at the State House bookstore, and it can be accessed on the Internet at www.state.ma.us/legis/laws/seslaw02/sl020246.htm.

3,500 Cyclists Take Up the Challenge

On Saturday, August 3, starting at 6:00 A.M., Route 20 in Sturbridge was closed in both directions for 15 minutes. No, it wasn't an accident. It was to allow 2,400 bicyclists to begin a very intentional two-day trek to Provincetown. They were joined en route by another 1,100 bicyclists heading south from Wellesley.

They all rode for the same reason—to raise money for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute's Jimmy Fund—and for different reasons. Of the 80 percent who had been touched personally by cancer, some were survivors, others had loved ones who were. And others rode in memory of those who did not survive, so that others might.

Courtesy of Pan-Massachusetts Challenge

Crossing the Bourne Bridge

This is the Pan-Massachusetts Challenge. It has raised almost 70 million dollars since its inception in 1980. Almost half of the donations to the Jimmy Fund come through this ride. The Boston MPO was asked in 1995 to provide camera-ready copy for the official Pan-Massachusetts Challenge map. The MPO agreed, and the Central Transportation Planning Staff has provided that service ever since.

Ashland Station Opening Completes Worcester Commuter Rail Extension

On August 24 the final piece of the Worcester Commuter Rail Extension Project was completed with the opening of the Ashland commuter rail station. Service between Framingham and Worcester began in 1994, with no intermediate stops. The MBTA subsequently embarked on a $97 million project to construct four new stations on the extension. A station in Grafton opened in February 2000, stations in Southborough and Westborough on June 22 of this year.

Passengers awaiting train at Ashland Station

Before the two new stations opened in June, approximately 15,640 passengers were being served daily over the full length of the line between Boston and Worcester. The MBTA estimates that with the Southborough, Westborough, and Ashland stations open for service, ridership will increase by 2,130.

The fare at Ashland Station is Zone 6, which is $4.25 for a one-way trip; a Zone 6 monthly pass costs $145. The station has 675 parking spaces. The parking fee is $1.00 per day.

All trains to and from Worcester stop at Ashland. For schedule information, please log onto www.mbta.com or call MBTA customer service at (617) 222-3200; the TTY (telecommunications device for the deaf) number is (617) 222-5146.ß

Rail~Volution Conference and Communities in Motion Day to Be Held in October

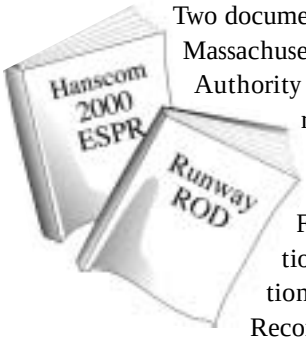
The eighth annual Rail~Volution Conference will be held October 3–6 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. "Investments Shaping Return" is the theme of the conference, which will include more than 60 workshops. Several "mobile workshops" that will take conference participants into city neighborhoods and nearby suburbs are also planned.

The American Public Transportation Association will join the conference to celebrate Communities in Motion Day on October 3 with two events in Washington. The first is a media event to recognize Congress for its support of public transportation. The second is a legislative briefing with key congressional staff on the successes of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century and plans for its reauthorization.

Communities in Motion Day, sponsored by APTA, is a national program whose purpose is to build support for public transportation by educating community members and decisionmakers about its importance. APTA has provided an online toolkit to assist transit systems in planning events for the day. It features an overview of the program as well as suggested activities, key message points, public transportation facts and figures, and information on national efforts to promote the day. The toolkit is available on the APTA Web site at www.apta.com.

Visit the Rail~Volution Web site at www.railvolution.com or call (800) 788-7077 for more information about the conference.

Reports Issued on Logan Runway and Hanscom Field



Two documents relating to Massachusetts Port Authority airports were released last month. On August 2 the Federal Aviation Administration issued a Record of Decision that approves a new runway proposed by Massport as part of its Logan Airside Improvements Planning Project. The decision, which is the culmination of a seven-year environmental review process, is recorded in a 79-page report. It allows use of the runway only under certain wind conditions and requires the submittal of a demand management plan and further study by FAA. The report is available in PDF format on the FAA's Web site at www.faa.gov/region/ane/rod.htm. It may also be requested by calling (781) 238-7609 or by writing to:

Federal Aviation Administration
Attn: Runway 14-32 Record of Decision
12 New England Executive Park
Burlington, MA 01803-5299

On August 7 Massport issued *The 2000 Environmental Status and Planning Report (ESPR) for Hanscom Field*. The ESPR presents the 2000 activity levels, environmental conditions, and mitigation initiatives at the airport, covering ground transportation, noise, air quality, wetlands, wildlife, water quality, cultural and historical resources, and sustainable development.

The ESPR compares 2000 conditions at Hanscom Field to those of 1995 and presents and evaluates the potential cumulative environmental effects of future growth scenarios, which will assist Massport in forming the foundation for future planning efforts.

The 2000 ESPR is available in PDF format on Massport's Web site at www.massport.com.

Meeting Calendar

The public is welcome to attend the following transportation-related meetings this month. A photo ID is usually required for access to meeting locations.

At the State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Boston

Thursday, September 5

Boston MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee Work Session — 10:00 A.M.

- Comments Received on the Draft 2000–25 Regional Transportation Plan Update Addendum (Plan Addendum) and Draft FY 2002–07 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment
- Environmental Justice Systems-Level Analysis Work Scope Development

CTPS Conference Room, Suite 2150

Wednesday, September 11

Regional Transportation Advisory Council — 3:00 P.M.

Conference Room 1

Thursday, September 12

Boston MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee — 10:00 A.M.

- Recommendations on Endorsement of the Plan Addendum and the FY 2002–07 TIP Amendment
- Environmental Justice Systems-Level Analysis Work Scope Approval

Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization: Endorsement of the Plan Addendum and the FY 2002–07 TIP Amendment — 1:00 P.M.

CTPS Conference Room, Suite 2150

MBTA Board of Directors — 1:00 P.M.

MBTA Boardroom, 3rd Floor

Boston MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee Work Session: Comments on the Draft FY 2003 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Draft FY 2003–08 TIP — 2:00 P.M.

CTPS Conference Room, Suite 2150

Thursday, September 19

Boston MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee: Recommendations on Endorsement of the FY 2003 UPWP and the FY 2003–08 TIP — 10:00 A.M.

Conference Room 1

Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization: Endorsement of the FY 2003 UPWP and the FY 2003–08 TIP — 1:00 P.M.

CTPS Conference Room, Suite 2150

Thursday, September 26

Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA — 1:00 P.M.

Conference Room 2

At Other Boston-Area Locations

Tuesday, September 10

MassHighway Public Hearing: Proposed Route 1A (Main Street) Intersection Improvements at Winter Street and Jean Road in Walpole — 6:30 P.M.

Town Hall
Main Meeting Room, Room 126A
135 School Street, Walpole

Tuesday, September 17

Central Artery Environmental Oversight Committee: Open Space Update — 3:00 P.M.

Hale and Dorr, 20th Floor
60 State Street, Boston

Thursday, September 19

Route 2 Citizens' Advisory Committee — 8:00 A.M.

MassHighway District 4
519 Appleton Street, Arlington

Monday, September 23

MBTA Community Meeting: Status of the South Boston Power Plant — 6:30 P.M.

Tynan School
650 East Fourth Street, South Boston

Meeting dates and times are subject to change: please call (617) 973-7119 for confirmation. Agendas for upcoming MPO and Transportation Planning and Programming Committee meetings are posted on the Boston MPO Web site a week before the meeting, at www.bostonmpo. Additional transportation meetings open to the public are also listed on this site.

■ Roadway Openings *cont. from p. 1*

15, begins at the West 4th Street Bridge and extends north past the Broadway Bridge to Kneeland Street and Atlantic Avenue. The existing ramps to I-93 northbound and the MassPike westbound from Frontage Road and the Broadway Bridge remain open; however these old ramps provide access to the highways only and not to Kneeland Street. The new MassPike eastbound off-ramp to South Station and downtown Boston, which opened on August 10, also provides motorists a direct connection to Kneeland Street and Atlantic Avenue. Atlantic Avenue northbound, which had been closed for four years, is now open again.

TRANSreport

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